A Dialogue with CPCS Students & Alumni

Keynote speaker, alumna Elaine Ward, EdD, ‘99,’10 discussed her work helping institutions of higher education with civic engagement

December 2015

Keynote speaker, alumna Elaine Ward, EdD, ‘99,’10 discussed her work helping institutions of higher education with civic engagement and facilitated a discussion between the student and alumni attendees at a networking gathering in the Alumni Lounge on December 1.

“How do you want to make change? How can CPCS help you reach your goals?” Students and Alumni spoke about the voids they would like to address within the most vulnerable populations and issues facing our communities.

Several Human Services majors shared their goals and aspirations to help, including outreach to the veteran population, teaching financial literacy and life skills to foster children, working on CORI reform and advocating for homeless and transitioning men of color.

“Even though you’re working towards making an impact on a macro level, you’ve got to be okay helping one person at a time” said Alumnus Bob Rubenstein, 2003, who was inspired by the young students’ passion for continuing this necessary work. Ward, an Irish immigrant, came to the United States as a teen and eventually found her way to CPCS and felt at home in the innovative higher education community. After she completed her BA, she worked at the college for ten years in the areas of leadership and community development, social justice and change, and civic and community engagement with adult immigrant and refugee students. At a crossroads, she knew she wanted to continue to make change and reflected “I needed to have my voice heard.” She continued on with her education to earn a master’s in counseling psychology and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration at UMass Boston. Focusing on enhancing civic engagement in the campus community, she carried the social justice mission of CPCS forward into her work and research. Now, Ward is an Assistant Professor at Merrimack College’s School of Education and Social Policy and is a Senior Research Associate with the Center for Engaged Democracy and a Visiting Scholar with the New England Resource Center for Higher Education at UMass Boston. Elaine has presented and published nationally and internationally on the Carnegie Classification

“Even though you’re working towards making an impact on a macro level, you’ve got to be okay with working on a micro level on a one-to-one level, helping one person at a time”
for Community Engagement and was recently awarded a grant to study the impact of service-learning on the development of civic mindedness in students at Merrimack College.

—Kaitlin Thurlow

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

A College for People Who Want to Make a Difference

University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
For more information about academic and professional development programs at CPCS Visit our website:

www.cpcs.umb.edu
or call 617.287.7100

Images: Harry Brett